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Economic and Social Council

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New York, 15 December 2010
Agenda item 7 (c)
Coordination, programme and other questions: international cooperation in the field of informatics

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Mr. Somduth Soborun (Mauritius), on the basis of informal consultations

The need to harmonize and improve United Nations informatics systems for optimal utilization and accessibility by all States

The Economic and Social Council,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation in the field of informatics[1] and the initiatives of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Informatics,

Recognizing the strategic importance of information and communications technology as a critical reform instrument for improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the United Nations Secretariat,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the need to harmonize and improve United Nations information systems for optimal utilization and access by all States, with due regard to all the official languages,[2]

Welcoming the intensification of efforts by the Chief Information Technology Officer and the Office of Information and Communications Technology of the Secretariat to improve effective collaboration and information management solutions for the needs of the permanent and observer missions at the United Nations,

1. *Reiterates once again* the high priority that it attaches to easy, economical, uncomplicated and unhindered access for States Members of the United

[1] E/2010/48.

[2] Resolutions 1991/70 of 26 July 1991, 1992/60 of 31 July 1992, 1993/56 of 29 July 1993, 1994/46 of 29 July 1994, 1995/61 of 28 July 1995, 1996/35 of 25 July 1996, 1997/1 of 18 July 1997, 1998/29 of 29 July 1998, 1999/58 of 30 July 1999, 2000/28 of 28 July 2000, 2001/24 of 26 July 2001, 2002/35 of 26 July 2002, 2003/48 of 24 July 2003, 2004/51 of 23 July 2004, 2005/12 of 22 July 2005, 2006/35 of 27 July 2006, 2007/14 of 26 July 2007, 2008/6 of 22 July 2008 and 2009/9 of 27 July 2009.

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Nations and Observers, as well as non-governmental organizations accredited to the United Nations, to the computerized databases and information systems and services of the United Nations;

2. *Requests* the President of the Economic and Social Council to convene the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Informatics for one more year to enable it to carry out, from within existing resources, the due fulfilment of the provisions of the Council resolutions on this item, to facilitate the successful implementation of the initiatives being taken by the Secretary-General with regard to the use of information technology and to continue the implementation of measures required to achieve its objectives, and in that regard requests the Working Group to continue its efforts to act as a bridge between the evolving needs of Member States and the actions of the Secretariat, and also requests the Working Group to consider its future role, status and mandate and develop findings in that regard;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretariat for the continuing cooperation that it is extending to the Working Group in the endeavour to further improve the information technology services available to all permanent and observer missions at the United Nations and, in particular, for the implementation of a Member State web portal[1] so as to consolidate and simplify the secure access by authorized representatives of Member States to relevant information, and for the continued upgrading and stabilizing of e-mail services for delegates, as well as for the continued assistance in the hosting of many mission websites, a cooperative effort of the Secretariat and the diplomatic community coordinated by the Working Group;

4. *Also expresses its appreciation* for the efforts by the Working Group and the Secretariat in providing training and support and raising awareness in the area of United Nations informatics systems for optimal utilization and accessibility by all States;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to extend full cooperation to the Working Group and to give priority to implementing its recommendations and guidance, particularly with regard to the upgrading of web-based services, including through the replacement of the CandiWeb elections and candidatures site;

6. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2011 on action taken in follow-up to the present resolution, including the findings of the Working Group and an assessment of its work and mandate.

[1] www.un.int.